

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Amendment in reply to the Office Action dated October 6, 2003.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 and added new claims 3-10 to more clearly define the claimed invention. Claims 1, 2, and 8 are independent claims.

Before entry of this Amendments, claims 1-2 were pending in this application, with claim 2 having been withdrawn from consideration. After entry of this Amendments, claims 1-10 are pending in this application, with claim 2 still being withdrawn from consideration.

The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the subject matter of amended claim 1 and new claims 3-10. No new matter was introduced.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bensing et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,884,980) ("Bensing"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or implicitly. M.P.E.P. 706.02. Because Bensing does not teach every aspect of claim 1 either alone or in combination with the other aspects of the claimed invention, Bensing does not anticipate any of those claims.

Bensing does not disclose or suggest the invention claimed in independent claim 1. For example, independent claim 1 recites a connector including, among other things, "wherein the pairs of crimp arms have intervals therebetween and said resin is further

impregnated to the core from the intervals." Bensing does not disclose at least this aspect of the invention either alone or in combination with the other aspects of the claimed invention.

Specifically, Bensing discloses an insert molded multiple contact electrical connector. The connector 10 is formed by placing an electrical contact 16 with core crimp wings 40 and insulation crimp wings 42 attached to an electrical cable 18. (Col. 3, lines 16-20). The electrical contact 16 is then placed in one of the rectangular grooves 26 and the electrical cable 18 is placed in one of the semicircular grooves 28 of the mold insert 12. (Col. 3, lines 37-44). The upper and lower moveable dies 62 and 64 are then closed around the mold insert 12, "the outer housing 14 is molded from a suitable thermoplastic material such as nylon." (Col. 4, lines 5-12). Bensing does not disclose or suggest, however, "wherein the pairs of crimp arms have intervals therebetween and said resin is further impregnated to the core from the intervals" as recited in claim 1. Indeed, Bensing makes no mention of whether any material enters the core of the electrical cable 18 at all. Accordingly, because Bensing does not disclose every aspect of the invention either alone or in combination with the other aspects of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of independent claim 1 and its respective dependent claims.

Applicant also submits that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention as recited in independent claim 8.

Applicant further submits that claims 3-7 and 9-10 depend from at least one of independent claims 1 and 8, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that each of those respective independent claims is allowable. In addition, at least

some of the dependent claims recite unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by Bensing, or the cited art, and therefore at least some also are separately patentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In discussing the specification, claims, abstract, and drawings in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicant is in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicant is entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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